

MEMORANDUM

To: Tenmile South Helena Forest Restoration Committee, the City of Helena, stakeholders, resources, and media.

From: Ecosystem Research Group

Date: March 17, 2016

Re: Meeting notes for the Wednesday, March 9, 2016 Collaborative meeting from 12:00 to 5:00 PM in Room 326 of the City – County Building

Attendance

Collaborative Committee members - Chairman Joe Cohenour, conservation organization representative; Co-vice Chair Jordan Alexander, fire community representative; Co-vice Chair Mike Bishop, citizen at large representative; Commissioner Cory Kirsch, county government representative; Jeff Chaffee, commercial use representative; Angie Grove, recreation representative; Gary Marks, commercial use representative; Eleanor Morris, conservation organization representative; Doug Powell, citizen-at-large

Committee members absent – Ron Alles, City of Helena representative

Stakeholders – None present

Resources - Sarah Elkins, City of Helena administrative point-of-contact (POC); Ben Irej, Ecosystem Research Group facilitator and coordinator; Brad Langsather, City of Helena technical POC and substitute for Committee member Ron Alles

Media – Tom Kuglin, Helena Independent Record

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 12:00 PM.

Topic: Welcome, introductions, disclose recording of meeting, explain public comment procedure, and approve meeting notes by Chairman Cohenour. Decisional. Objective: Welcome, Committee members and attendees introduce themselves. Chairman discloses that the meeting is being recorded and explains the public comment procedure. Committee amends and/or approves meeting notes.

[Chairman Cohenour welcomed all attendees.]

Meetings are being digitally record to make generating the notes easier and for the project record.

We will take public comment on the compiled comments at the beginning of that agenda item.

Topic: Public comment on the Committee's compiled comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by Chairman Cohenour. Informational. Objective: Collaborative Committee listens to public comments on the Committee's compiled comments.

Q: Would the public like to comment on the compiled comments?

[No members of the public were present]

Topic: Committee's consensus process check by Ben Irej. Decisional. Objective: Committee discusses how the process of consensus testing is going and modifies approach, if necessary.

The Committee decided that comments would need to have consensus tested before they could be amended; it is too confusing otherwise.

Contact the Tenmile South Helena Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee at: tenmilecollaborative@helenamt.gov

The Committee decided that, if there is more than a quorum of Committee members present, a member may abstain from voting if they do not want their vote recorded. Consensus with a Committee member abstaining would be forwarded to the agency as consensus comments. The abstaining Committee member will be given the opportunity to write a position statement to go along with the comment.

The Committee decided that consensus-minus-one comments would be forwarded to the agency and indicated as such. Comments with more than one dissenting vote would not be forwarded.

Topic: Request to extend comment period for DEIS by Chairman Cohenour. Informational. Committee discusses how the process of consensus is going and modifies approach, if necessary.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of requesting an extension and decided to see how the next few agenda items went before making a decision.

Topic: Test consensus on Committee comments regarding DEIS by Ben Irely. Decisional. Objective: Test consensus on all of the Committee comments regarding the DEIS.

Q: Are there any public comments on the compiled committee comments?

[No members of the public were present]

We will begin testing consensus on the compiled comments, starting with the comments marked as being near consensus. We will then move on to those marked as being mid-way toward consensus, then those that are marked as far. When we test consensus, you can either give the comment a thumbs up, thumbs sideways, or thumbs down. A thumbs down means that consensus is not achieved. Thumbs sideways means that you support the comment, though you do not wholeheartedly agree. Thumbs up means you wholeheartedly agree with the comment or you find the comment perfectly acceptable.

We have a quorum present.

[Please reference the Compiled Comments from the March 9, 2016 meeting to see the results of this agenda item.]

Topic: Break into groups to redraft comments that did not gain consensus by Ben Irely. Informational. Objective: Redraft comments that did not achieve consensus with input from dissenters.

[No notes were recorded for this agenda item, as Committee members were working in small groups]

Topic: Test consensus on redrafted comments by Ben Irely. Decisional. Objective: Test consensus on redrafted comments.

[Please reference the Compiled Comments from the March 9, 2016 meeting to see the results of this agenda item.]

Request to extend comment period on DEIS, meeting schedule by Chairman Cohenour. Decisional. Committee decides if they want to request an extension and decides on a meeting schedule.

As a result of the success of today's consensus testing, the Committee decided that there was no need to ask for an extension.

The next meeting of the Tenmile South Helena Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM in Room 326 of the City – County Building.

68 **Topic: Public comment, meeting closeout, and upcoming events. Informational. Objective: Allow**
69 **time for the public to comment on Committee business. Discuss upcoming events pertinent to**
70 **Committee.**

71 Is there any public comment?

72 [No public comment was given]

73 MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:00 PM